



Operation Predator



SELECTED OPERATION PREDATOR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS SINCE JULY 9, 2003

- **7th-Grade Teacher Arrested for Child Pornography Possession** – On September 24, ICE agents in Fresno, California, arrested Victor Lang, a seventh grade school teacher, after executing a search warrant on his residence. ICE agents found digital child pornography images of 12-year olds. Lang had been teaching at this Fresno school for 13 years.
- **Man Charged as Child Sex Tourist, Admits Molesting 40 to 50 Minors** - On September 24, Michael Lewis Clark was charged with federal child sex tourism violations in Seattle. He is the first in the nation to be charged under the enhanced child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act, which was enacted in April 2003. Lewis was arrested by ICE agents on September 10 after he arrived in Seattle on a flight from Asia. In June 2003, Clark had been arrested by authorities in Cambodia for sexual debauchery involving two Cambodian boys, ages 10 and 13. Clark was expelled by the Cambodian government and sent to the United States. According to the criminal complaint, Clark has admitted molesting as many as 40-50 children.
- **Teen Hostage Rescued, Smugglers Arrested** – On September 18, ICE agents in Houston learned that a 16-year-old undocumented Mexican boy who had been smuggled into the country was being held captive by smugglers pending payment of a ransom fee by his family. Undercover ICE agents, posing as members of the boy's family, met the two smugglers and arrested them after a chase involving an ICE helicopter and ground assets. The teen was rescued by ICE agents.
- **Megan's Law Registrant Arrested Again for Child Sex Crimes** – On September 17, ICE agents in California arrested an individual on charges of child pornography possession, following the execution of a search warrant on his home. This individual had previously been convicted of lewd and lascivious conduct with a person under the age of 14, which required him to be registered as a sex offender under Megan's Law.
- **Teen Prostitution Trafficker Sentenced** -- On September 16, a federal judge in Newark sentenced Rafael Ruiz, a Dominican national, to 44 months imprisonment for conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Ruiz, who operated a house of prostitution in Plainfield, N.J., was involved in a ring that smuggled female juveniles from Mexico into the United States and then held them to work as prostitutes against their will. ICE agents closed down the trafficking ring.
- **Man Who Molested Own Daughter Arrested** --On September 16, ICE agents in West Palm, Florida arrested Fritz Laguerre based on an outstanding deportation order. Laguerre, a citizen of Haiti, had been arrested by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office in July 2002 for raping his 12-year-old daughter. He later pleaded guilty to fondling. Laguerre had subsequently evaded ICE efforts to deport him.
- **Accused Child Rapist Arrested** -- On September 13, ICE officers arrested Ramon Amador, 53, a man wanted in Minnesota on charges of raping a 9-year-old, after he attempted to apply for U.S. immigration benefits in California. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) officers conducted a background check of Amador when he first applied for benefits. The check revealed that Amador was a wanted fugitive. CIS officers notified ICE officials and invited Amador to

come to the Sacramento CIS office to provide more information. Amador was arrested by ICE agents upon his arrival at the office.

- **13 Child Predators Arrested, Including Man Who Sexually Assaulted Mentally-Impaired Minor** -- On September 13, ICE agents in Denver announced the arrest of 13 aliens who had been convicted of sexual offenses against minors, but had subsequently evaded deportation. Among those arrested was Pedro Gutierrez-Lozano, a Mexican national convicted in 1999 of 2nd degree sexual assault on a mentally impaired minor. Gutierrez was deported to Mexico in 2000 after serving his 180-day jail sentence. He returned to the United States illegally and began living in Colorado until his arrest by ICE agents.
- **International Child Pornographer Sentenced** -- On August 27, a federal judge in Salt Lake City sentenced Joseph Paul Durborow, 41, to 121-months imprisonment for his role in an international child pornography ring that molested its own children and posted images of the molestation on the Internet. ICE agents arrested Durborow as part of an international investigation called Operation Hamlet. A child photographer in Utah, Durborow pleaded guilty in 2002 to using hidden cameras in his studio's dressing room to photograph children as they changed clothes. Durborow admitted taking explicit photos of his own foster daughter and then selling or trading these images to others.
- **50 Child Predators Arrested, Including Summer Camp Employee Who Molested 3 Young Sisters** -- On August 13, ICE agents in Baltimore announced the arrest of 50 aliens who had been convicted of sexual offenses involving minors, but had evaded deportation. Among those arrested were a summer camp employee convicted of molesting three pre-pubescent sisters, as well as a Polish national and former U.S. Marine convicted of indecent exposure.
- **Accused Child Rapist With AIDS Arrested After Predator Hotline Tip** -- On August 7, the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) received a call on the Operation Predator tip line indicating that Francis Wanjuri, a 27-year-old Kenyan national who reportedly was afflicted with AIDS, was having sex with female minors in the Boston area. The ICE LESC immediately provided the information to police in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The following day, police in Lawrence arrested Wanjuri on charges of raping a 14-year-old girl in a local apartment.
- **International Teen Sex Traffickers Sentenced** -- On August 7, a federal judge in Newark sentenced two female Mexican nationals to 210 months imprisonment for luring four teenaged Mexican girls to the United States and holding them captive as prostitutes in a brothel in Plainfield, N.J. These sentences were among the first to be handed down under the Trafficking and Victims Protection Act, which was enacted in 2000. The two women were among a total of six defendants who have pleaded guilty as a result of an ICE probe into a ring that conspired to smuggled undocumented Mexican girls into the United States.
- **Accused Child Pornographer / Elementary School Teacher Arrested** -- On July 25, ICE agents arrested Ronald Knapp, an elementary school teacher and a mentor in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program in Union City, Michigan. ICE agents were acting on a lead from an overseas child pornography website that identified Knapp as a paid subscriber to the site. Agents arrested Knapp after executing a search warrant at his home where they identified thousands of child pornography images on his computer.
- **27 Child Predators Arrested, Including a Man Filmed Groping a 12-Year-Old Girl** -- On July 24, ICE agents in Miami arrested 25 men convicted of sexually abusing children and 2 women convicted of child abuse or endangerment. As part of the operation, ICE agents had targeted for arrest Bayardo Rafael Chamarro, a Nicaraguan national who was a registered sex offender and who had evaded law enforcement efforts to deport him. As the ICE team prepared to arrest him, Chamarro was caught on a surveillance camera groping a 12-year-old girl in a Sears department store in Miami. Local police arrested Chamarro outside the store. He was subsequently charged with lewd and lascivious molestation on a child under the age of 16.

Chamarro had been charged previously with similar crimes against minors and was a registered sex offender under Megan's Law.

- **Man Sentenced For Using Internet to Lure Teen Girls into Sex** -- On July 21, a federal judge in Portland, Maine, sentenced Charles A. Gravenhorst, 46, to eight years in prison for using his computer to lure a 14-year-old and three 15-year-olds to engage in prohibited sex acts with him and for transferring obscene materials over the Internet to three minors. Gravenhorst was found guilty in March 2003 after a jury trial that resulted from an extensive ICE investigation.
- **Man Who Used Niece in Child Pornography Scheme Sentenced** -- On July 16, a federal judge in Hartford, Connecticut sentenced James Petrucci to 10 years in prison and two years supervised release for production of child pornography. An ICE investigation had determined that Petrucci had used his niece, a 12-year-old girl, to pose in a sexually explicit manner while he photographed her.
- **Prolific Internet Child Pornographer Pleads Guilty** -- On July 11, Martin James Finer, 58, pled guilty in Hawaii to charges of possession of more than 58,000 child pornography images on his computer and more than 3,000 movie files of child pornography. ICE agents arrested Finer in June 2002 after a lengthy investigation.
- **Child Sex Predator Arrested** -- On July 10, ICE agents in Minnesota arrested Humberto Gabriel Zamora, a Mexican national who was living under an alias in Willmar, Minn. Gabriel Zamora had been convicted of first degree sexual abuse involving a 15-year old girl in March 2001. He was deported to Mexico in April 2001. He subsequently re-entered the country illegally and moved to Willmar, where he began working under another name.

###

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.